GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:792
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
BETTER MSP TO FARMERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are quitting agriculture profession as they are unable to get remunerative price for their produce and fail to recover their costs through Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make agriculture profitable; and

(d) the funds sanctioned and utilized for development of agriculture during the last two years and current years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): As per the Report No. 496 of the National Sample Survey Organization titled `Some Aspects of Farming` in 2003, at the all-India level 60 percent of farmer households reported that they liked farming as a profession. Among the reasons for the remaining (40 percent) farmers for their dissatisfaction, 27 percent did not find it profitable and 8 percent thought it was too risky. Only 2 percent of all the farmers disliked farming because of its lack of social status. Another 3 percent disliked for reasons other than the above.

(c): The enhancement of income, alongwith production and productivity, of farmers is a constant endeavor of the Government. Among the major initiatives taken by the Government are Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers, ensuring timely availability of quality inputs, accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture, optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irritation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/ rain fed farming systems, reforming agricultural markets, putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers, etc. including the setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority.
(d): Funds sanctioned and utilized for development of agriculture during 2004-05 to 2006-07 are given in the table below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Sanctioned	Utilized
2004-05	2670.00	2676.78
2005-06	4209.32	3828.69
2006-07	4840.00	4900.01

(anticipated)